

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-04 CEA-01

FEAE-00 AGR-05 INT-05 FPC-01 ERDA-05 /123 W

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R 051018Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1649

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 3529

E.O. 11652: NGDS

TAGS: EGEN, UNGA

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S SPEECH AT UNGA SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION

REF:STATE 207669

1. I SAW PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE AT MY REQUEST SEPT 4 TO GIVE HIM FRENCH TEXT OF SECRETARY'S SPEECH, AS INSTRUCTED IN REFTEL. ALSO LEFT WITH HIM TWO SHORT PAPERS DRAWING ON MAIN POINTS IN PARAS 3 AND 4 OF REFTEL REGARDING USA INTEREST IN CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE AND SUMMARIZING OUR PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE LOT OF POOREST NATIONS (PARA 8E REFTEL) WHICH WERE PARTICULARLY RELEVANT TO NIGER'S PROBLEMS.

2. IN PRESENTING THESE DOCUMENTS, I STRESSED US INTEREST IN TURNING AWAY FROM CONFRONTATION SITUTATIONS WHICH HAVE
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CHARACTERIZED SOME RECENT INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS AND

SERIOUSNESS OF US PROPOSALS AND DESIRES TO WORK
TOWARD MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS.

3. PRESIDENT' REACTION WAS POSITIVE. HE SAID HE
HAD ALREADY READ SUMMARY OF SPEECH AS WELL AS PRESS
REACTION TO IT WHICH SEEMED GENERALLY SUPPORTIVE.
HE WAS IMPRESSED BY COMPREHENSIVENESS AND WIDE
RANGING CHARACTER OF US PROPOSALS WHICH HE SAID
REMINDED HIM OF SWEEPING MEASURES PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT
INTRODUCED IN US IN 1933 IN EFFORT OVERCOME EFFECTS OF
DEPRESSION.COMMENT: RIGHT OR WRONG, THIS IS INTERESTING
ALLUSION TO COME FROM 44 YEAR OLD FRENCH TRAINED ARMY
OFFICER RUNNING THIS LANDLOCKED BACKWARD COUNTRY IN
WEST AFRICA. END COMMENT.

4. KOUNTCHE WENT ON TO SAY THAT GIVEN NIGER'S FOOD PROBLEMS
HE WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN US PROPOSALS REGARDING
FOOD PRODUCTION AND STOCKS AND AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE.
HE CONCLUDED THAT PERHAPS MOST SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT
OF SPEECH TO DATE WAS THAT IT HAD SUCCEEDED IN LOWERING
TEMPERATURE OF SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION. MANY HAD ANTICIPATED
SESSION WOULD BE MARKED BY ANGRY CONFRONTATION. SECRETARY'S
SPEECH HAD EFFECTIVELY HEADED THIS OFF TO PERMIT MORE SOBER
DEBATESAND CONSIDERATION OF US PROPOSALS. THIS WAS MAJOR
ACHIEVEMENT WHICH NIGER WELCOMED.

5. LOCAL PRESS AND RADIO HAVE GIVEN GOOD COVERAGE TO SECRETARY'S
SPEECH. SEPT 4 MIDDAY NEWS BORADCAST AS WELL AS TODAY'S
NIAMEY PAPER CARRIED IN FULL, STATEMENT I GAVE
JOURNALISTS AFTER MEETING WITH PRESIDENT WHICH
HIGHLIGHTED PROPOSALS IN SPEECH OF SEPCIAL RELEVANCE
TO NIGER.

6. COMMENT: OFFICIAL REACTION TO SPEECH HERE IS
POKITIVE AND FAVORABLE. UNFORTUNATE THAT NIGER'S
VOICE IS ONLY RARELY HEARD AT UN SESSIONS WHERE
GON SEEMS TO HAVE INFERIORITY COMPLEX.HECK

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